

source IP address included in a packet which is received from the external apparatus in the authentication processing when this access of the external apparatus is judged to be the first access
5 in the fourth step;

a sixth step of determining the external apparatus as an apparatus not to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device when the external apparatus is judged not
10 to be authenticated in the third step;

a seventh step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not the source IP address of the external apparatus giving the access thereto is identical with the stored
15 source IP address when this access is judged not to be the first access in the first step;

an eighth step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not the source IP address is within a predetermined valid
20 period when the source IP address of the external apparatus is judged to be identical with the stored source IP address in the seventh step;

a ninth step of determining the external apparatus having the source IP address which is
25 judged to be within the predetermine valid period

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as an apparatus to be responded to thereafter by
the intelligent interconnecting device and causing
the intelligent interconnecting device to execute
the steps beginning from the second step, when the
5 source IP address of the external apparatus is
judged to be within the predetermined valid period
in the eighth step; and

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a tenth step of determining the external
apparatus whose source IP address is judged to be
10 nonidentical or is judged to be not within the
predetermined valid period as an apparatus not to
be responded to thereafter by the intelligent
interconnecting device, when the source IP address
of the external apparatus is judged to be
15 nonidentical with the stored source IP address in
the seventh step or is judged to be not within the
predetermined valid period in the eighth step.

23. An intelligent interconnecting device having
20 a function of repeating a packet which is
transmitted/received between a plurality of
computers and being structured to be controllable
by an external apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol,
the intelligent interconnecting device
25 comprising:

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a LAN trunk line interfacing section having
an interface function with a LAN trunk line;

a port interfacing section having an interface
function with a terminal connected thereto;

5 a storage section for storing a program and
data therein; and

a central controlling section for controlling
operations of said LAN trunk line interfacing
section, said port interfacing section, and said
10 storage section,

wherein said central controlling section
executes the following steps:

a first step of causing the intelligent
interconnecting device to judge whether or not a
15 first access to the intelligent interconnecting
device from outside has occurred;

a second step of causing the intelligent
interconnecting device to carry out authentication
processing by using a user identifier and a
20 password based on the TCP/IP protocol when it is
judged in the first step that the first access from
outside has occurred;

a third step of causing the intelligent
interconnecting device to judge after the
25 authentication processing in the second step